

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 08SANSALVADOR260, ZABLAH CANDIDACY AGAIN IN PLAY; WAITING ON FDR, PDC, AND CD

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08SANSALVADOR260**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08SANSALVADOR260	2008-03-03 22:02	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy San Salvador

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.wikileaks.elfaro.net/es/201106/notas/4565/>

VZCZCXYZ0589  
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSN #0260 0632202  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 032202Z MAR 08  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9121  
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 000260

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/03/2018

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SUBJECT: ZABLAH CANDIDACY AGAIN IN PLAY; WAITING ON FDR, PDC, AND CD

REF: 07 SAN SALVADOR 2423 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: the Ambassador for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Summary: FDR, CD, and PDC are again discussing seriously an across-the-board alliance to compete in municipal, legislative, and presidential elections in early ¶2009. Arturo Zablah would be the coalition's presidential candidate. An agreement could be reached as early as March ¶5. End Summary.

¶2. (C) Following Arturo Zablah's December decision (Reftel) to abandon his bid to mount a third-party campaign for the Salvadoran presidency after the PDC (Christian Democrats), FDR (Democratic Revolutionary Front, an FMLN breakaway party) and CD (Democratic Change) failed to reach agreement to join forces behind Zablah as a single presidential candidate, those talks have again resumed and Zablah may again be poised to run. Hector Silva is being mentioned as his running mate.

PDC President Rodolfo Parker stepped out of a meeting with FDR and CD to tell PolCouns February 29 that negotiations were moving forward, though it was far from clear if CD would agree to PDC and FDR's demand that any alliance be complete, from the municipal to presidential elections, along with a coordinating executive board and rules to keep all parties on board. Parker said the parties aimed to have an agreement, if one could be reached, by Tuesday, March 5 in order to begin rolling out Zablah's candidacy soon thereafter.

¶3. (C) Parker estimated ARENA's "volatile vote" at around 30 percent, compared to the FMLN's 5 percent. This, he said, means we would be taking votes from ARENA, not from the FMLN, especially from voters tired of ARENA's 18-year rule and looking to punish the incumbent party. The aim, Parker said, was to keep those votes from going to the FMLN. Parker said he had spoken with a number of ARENA supporters who expressed interest in Zablah's candidacy, though ARENA's leadership sees Zablah as "too independent".

¶4. (C) Parker said the parties had been studying options to finance a campaign and had concluded they would be outspent by both ARENA and the FMLN.

¶5. (C) Parker said the main sticking point in an agreement concerns CD's existing agreements with the FMLN in some 28 municipalities, where th

¶6. (C) Comment: The Salvadoran Constitution requires a president to be elected with at least fifty percent of the vote, so a Zablah run backed by a disciplined coalition (that might at that point hold a dozen or more Assembly seats) could easily throw the election to a second round (between the top two first-round finishers) in April 2009. If Zablah were to come in third, we would expect PDC and FDR to press to throw their support behind ARENA -- for a price. And just as now, CD would probably be willing to go with the highest bidder, but the coalition structure Parker described would (on paper at least) limit their ability to go it alone backing the FMLN.

GLAZER